**Seeking Accreditation Visit (SAV) Chair Communication to Team
Sample**

Today’s Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Institution: «Institution\_name»

Dates of Review: «Dates»

DearTeam:

Welcome to the **«Institution\_name»** team which will conduct the Seeking Accreditation Visit.As chair, I appreciate your participation in this important quality assurance peer review accreditation process. During the upcoming weeks, we will work together to determine the scope of the review and identify any issues related to compliance with WSCUC Standards.

Our visit will begin at **4pm** on **«Initial\_Team\_Mtg»** with a team orientation meeting at the hotel. The visit will conclude as scheduled on **«Last\_day\_of\_visit»** at noon. All team members must be present for the entire visit, including the exit meeting that is held at the end of the visit.

The institutional materials we will need for our visit are on [www.box.com](http://www.box.com) (a cloud service), in a designated folder to which you have been invited by the Accreditation Process Manager. Other documents which the team will use during and after the review may be found in the team box folder under **SAV List of Docs & Forms.** If you have not already done so, please be sure to bookmark this site for the visit. Our goal is to finalize the team report by the conclusion of our visit and file a confidential team recommendation with the Commission about the institution’s compliance with the Standards.

As chair of the team, I am writing to you now to initiate our group effort for the visit and begin planning in earnest. Our next step is the all-important team videoconference meeting.

**The Team Videoconference meeting**

Visits require a high level of advance preparation. As part of our preparation, we will hold a videoconference meeting several weeks before the visit to discuss the institution, the foci of the review, and team strategies for the gathering and analysis of evidence for those issues. The meeting will also function as a team training session with our WSCUC staff liaison, **«VP»**, who will orient the team to the visit process, timeline, and logistics.

The team videoconference meeting is scheduled for **«Actual\_date», «Actual\_time»**[**DATE OF TEAM VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING, if scheduled].** It will be essential for you to have read the documents provided before this meeting and to be prepared to discuss your impressions, especially as they affect your team writing assignment. Together we will analyze how well the institution is positioned for the visit, further consider compliance issues that have been identified, and what remains in final preparations for the visit. We will be using the team worksheet to provide a framework for the videoconference meeting discussion.

**Team Worksheet**

Please complete the attached worksheet and email it to the assistant chair by **[DATE]** in time for everyone to be prepared for the meeting. The assistant chair will compile the worksheets to facilitate our discussion and return a consolidated worksheet to team members. It is critical for everyone to complete the worksheet and send it in on time so that we can have a productive discussion.

**Assistant Chair**

**«Assistant\_Chair\_»** will be serving as the assistant chair. The assistant chair’s task is to create a consolidated worksheet for the meeting, and to send it to us in advance and to work with the team to produce the first draft of the team report, with attention to format, evidence, analysis, and recommendations. The assistant chair works closely with me and the team in visit preparation and follow-up, including recording notes of the pre-visit videoconference meeting and other meetings and checking the confidential email account.

**Travel Plans and Reimbursement and Starting/Ending Times for the Visit**

Please complete your travel plans as soon as possible. WSCUC procedures for visit expenses require that each team member be responsible for his or her travel and other expenses and be reimbursed after the visit. Your claim for reimbursement should be made shortly after the conclusion of the visit. Note: If you are traveling internationally, please contact the WSCUC staff liaison for additional information. An expense reimbursement form and the WSCUC policy on expenses are included in the online resources provided by WSCUC. Tickets for flights 8 hours or less in length should be purchased as coach fare. If the flight is longer than 8 hours, the flight may be booked as business class. Ground transportation will be provided by the institution or may be coordinated via taxi or ride share. Car rentals will not be reimbursed unless authorized by WSCUC staff in consultation with the institution. Hotel reservations are made by the institution, which will arrange to pay for accommodations directly. In connection with your travel plans, you will receive a survey or questionnaire from the institution before the visit to inform you about hotel accommodations and local transportation and to ascertain your travel plans and visit-related needs. Your prompt response to the survey will be helpful to the institution as it moves forward with its plans for our visit. You may read more about WSCUC travel and reimbursement policies [here.](https://wascsenior.box.com/s/vzaa8kq0gh19y4ho9lpi)

**Team Assignments**

Based on my understanding of your expertise, I have organized the team’s assignments by the foci of the institution’s report, the type of review, and required compliance elements. Individual interviews, meetings with groups, and new information will be helpful during the visit to assist you in your work. These assignments are preliminary and will be discussed and finalized on the videoconference meeting:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Essay** | **First Writer** |  **Second Writer** |
| Seeking Accreditation Review Template |  |  |
| Section 1: Institutional Context |  |  |
| Section 2: Report Preparation |  |  |
| Section 3: Previous Recommendations |  |  |
| Section 4: Compliance with Standards |  |  |
| Standard 1 |  |  |
| Standard 2 |  |  |
| Standard 3 |  |  |
| Standard 4 |  |  |
| Section 5: Other Issues Facing Institution |  |  |
| Section 6: Preparation for Reaffirmation Under 2013 Standards |  |  |
| Section 7: Conclusion and Reflections |  |  |
| Federal Requirements |  |  |
| Credit Hour and Program Length Review |  |  |
| Marketing and Recruitment Review |  |  |
| Student Complaints Review |  |  |
| Transfer Credit Review |  |  |
| General Required Information |  |  |
| Off-Campus Locations Review, as appropriate |  |  |
| Distance Education Review, as appropriate |  |  |

As a reminder, the first writer drafts the assigned sections of the report. The second writer is available for consultation and collaboration and may attend interviews or review material related to this topic. We will all be working together on all the topics, but assigning a first and second writer helps the team to be productive within our limited time frame, to organize our work, and to prepare a thorough report.

Before you begin writing, please review the [WSCUC Style Guide](https://wascsenior.box.com/s/gmpcmhp29saqwz3do30j). This document provides guidance for writing your sections that will make it easier for the assistant chair to prepare a first draft of the report.

**Next Steps**

Before the videoconference meeting on **[DATE OF TEAM VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING, if scheduled] «Actual\_date»**, please review the documents sent by WSCUC and the institution. We suggest that you set aside a whole day to do this. An early start will ensure that you have time to review the materials carefully and complete the team worksheet.

I look forward to our meeting. Thank you again for agreeing to be part of this accreditation effort, which is so important to the continued vitality of the institutions in our region.

Sincerely,

«Team\_Chair\_»

cc: «VP», WSCUC Staff Liaison

*Revised, April 2015*